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Events

LOWER CALIFORNIA

Communication makes for civilization. The airplane promises to make accessible many hitherto obscure regions, not along main lines of steamer or rallway travel.

had little reason heretofore to go to frunk. Lower California. Recently, however, this peninsula has been the resting place for airplanes in flights from the Pacific coast of the United States to the Panama Canal, Frederick Simpleh writes to the Na-

tional Geographic society as follows: "The long, boot-shaped peninsula that swings down off the left-hand corner of the United States belongs to Mexico and is known on Mexican maps as 'Baja,' or Lower California, Early Spanish maps of America showed California as an island, due, no doubt, to limited explorations of this penin-

"Scantily known as it is to the average American, this 800-mile-long strip of rocks, peaks, brush-grown mesas, and rare, fertile little valleys is a favorite haunt for many Yankee naturalists, fishermen, and big-game hunters; and here and there, in the mere-favored, well-watered, grassy spots of the higher ranges, hardy American cattlemen have built their adobe homes, where they enjoy the limitless freedom of vast unfenced areas. The Circle Bar company of Ojos Negros Ranch runs cattle over a leased territory of two and a half million acres, and a British corporation holds title to something like fifteen million acres.

"Away down at peaceful picturesque La Paz, where Cortez repaired his schooners and where, centuries later, Walker, the Yankee flibuster, raised his flag, another Yankee today runs a busy little tannery, turning out 600 sides of good leather every day, for an American shoe factory. Here and there, in hill and valley, Americans are delving for metals or growing the staple frijele.

"But the country as a whole, owing to its many desert, waterless areas, is but sparsely settled, and, as one writer says, 'In all its turbulent, romantic history, since the halcyon days when Sir Francis Drake dropped his pirate anchor in Magdalena Bay, no wheeled vehicle has traversed its rough and tortuous length.'

"Rich as are its mines and fat as are its herds of cattle, its chief source of wealth lies in the cottongrowing regions around Mexicali.

"At the Colorado delta, at the head of the Gulf of California, which separates the Lower California península from Sonora, more than at any other point on the whole border, the interests of the United States and of Mexico are closely joined. This is due to the singular topography of that region (part of it is below sea-level) and to the diversion of water from the Colorado river. In the opinion of many irrigation engineers and political students, this peculiarly delicate problem of irrigation and water rights, as between planters on the American and Mexican sides of the line, respectively, can be solved satisfactorily only by some joint treaty between the two republics involving either the fixing of a neutral zone or the sale of small strip of territory."

WILL ELEPHANTS GO THE WAY OF BUFFALOES?

Will the African elephants soon have to be protected, as are buffaloes in the United States, lest they become ex-

The peaceful progress of farming is the menace which the elephant faces. Already the South African Cape council has decided to exterminate the elephants because they despoil crops and sometimes kill agricultural la-

Sir Harry Johnston, famous African authority, tells of his experience with African elephants in a communication to the National Geographic society:

"If, after many years of trials, the African elephant is prenounced to be hopeless as a domestic animal (and it should be remembered that most male African elephants in captivity savage), then at least for its magnificent lvery the creature is worth If the Indian elephant shows himself to be more docile than the African elephant, it must be remembered, on the other hand, that he is of very little value for his ivory.

"One day a baby elephant was presented to me by an Uganda chief. It is a sad think to relate, but three men the first elephant. I had expressed to experiment with in demestication. and the natives, with their usual desire to please me, were so ardent in their determination to gratify my wish and so determined in their pursuit of the young elephant that the mother elephant knocked over and killed three of them. But finally they succeeded it their object, capturing the calf, and Highland Park . to my great surprise it trotted into camp behind one of the men

"This little creature was at the time only four feet high. In two days it had become perfectly tame, and would follow a human being as readily as his awa mother. It was easy enough to feed him with milk, because all that was required was a bottle with a long neck. This bottle was filled with cow's milk diluted with water, and poured down the elephant's throat. Soon all neck of the bottle in the elephant's anything, but deftly smelling and ex-For example, the average American | amining objects of curiosity with its

> tivity a young zebra, which was also the mouth! to be the pioneer of a domesticated striped horse. These two orphans, the elephant and the zebra, became greatly attached to each other, though perhaps there was more enthusiastic affection on the part of the elephant, the zebra, at times, getting a little bored with constant embraces. Alas and alack! both elephant and zebra died eventually from the unwholesomeness, to them, of cow's milk."

MALMEDY: WALLOON ISLE RELINQUISHED BY **PRUSSIA**

In patching together the picture puzzle of European nations to fit more nearly racial and historical units the peace conference commission on Belgian claims approved Belgium's denand for Malmedy.

Malmedy long formed one of those alien racial clusters that seem to cling like barnacles to many a European boundary line.

In the case of Malmedy and the region about that town a group or Walloons was left in Rhenish Prussia when the historic Benedictine Ab bey of Stavelot-Malmedy was cut in two in 1815. Malmedy fell to Prussia, while six miles to the west, across the pre-war Belgian border, is Stave-

The latter town was the seat of the abbey which was independent until the Luneville peace of 1801. The abbey fell to France until its partition 14 years later. The abbey was founded in the Seventh century and later its abbots ranked as princes. They ruled many small villages along the Ambleve, on which Stavelot is situated, and along the Warche which flows through Malmedy

Charles Martel, grandfather of Char lemagne, who ruled the Franks while he let their kings reign on, won a deeisive victory over Neustria at Stave lot 1200 years ago.

Malmedy lies in a pretty valley of the afore-mentioned river, 20 miles south of Aix-la-Chapelle. The town had less than 5,000 population before the war. Dyeing, paper-making and tanning were its industries.

The term Walloon is used to desig nate those Belgians who speak either French or a French dialect. The Walloons of Belgium desired Malmedy's restoration for lingual as well as for sentimental reasons. In Liege and Na mur a movement for the revival of Wal loon as a literary language—for it had been so used until about the fifteenth century-was well under way when the war began. In the midst of German speaking neighbors Malmedy and its envirous preserved the old Walloon dialect, whereas among many Belgian Walloons it has been supplanted by pure French.

THE STRAITS OF MESSINA

Between the rocky masses of Sicily and the "toe" of the Italian peninsula, there is but a narrow lane of sea, known as the Straits of Messina. Yet this ribbon of water might be ocean-wide, judged by the diverse civilizations of Italy and its island neigh-

The Sicilian and Italian banks, which border the Straits of Messina for nearly 25 miles to the east and west, are among the most luxuriant to be found in a cruise of the Mediterranean. Magnificent golden groves of lemon and orange, and orchards of pomegranate with their brilliant red fruit, contrast wonderfully with the flowers of the almond trees which perfume the whole

The straits are entered from the Tyrrhenian sea, on the north, at the narrowest point, the distance between Punta del Faro on the Sicilian shore and the mainland lighthouse on Punta Pezzo being not more than two miles. The whole of the Calabrian coast is thickly sown with villages, some cling ing to the beach, while others clamber up the sides of the well-wooded hills which culminate in the towering Montalto, rising to an elevation of more than a mile above the sea. Beyond the straits to the southwest, looms ever-threatening Etna, the highest vol-

cano in Europe. The most important city situated on the straits is the once megnificent seaport of Messina, which boasted a nopulation of 150,000 inhabitants be-

est and safest in the kingdom of It- feet wide, and all about it the takealy, with a depth of more than 30 off and laterals may still be identified. fathoms. Before the great calamity it | Herodotus said he found a forest of was visited annually by more than verdure from end to end when he vis-5,000 vessels which brought cargoes "Ited Mesopotamia."

of wheat, cotton, wool and hardware, and took away in exchange lemons, oranges, almonds, wines, olive oil and

Homer did not accord a definite habitation for his terrible sea-creatures, Sc. lla and Charybdis, but mariners familiar with the perils of the rocks on the Italian side of the straits and with the strong eddies near the harbor of Messina, saw in the mythical monsters an explanation of such dangers. Scylla was supposed to be a wound its trunk around the neck of horrible creature with six heads and the bottle, tilted it up, and absorbed a dezen feet, who barked like a dog. the contents. For several weeks the | She dwelt in a lofty cave from which elephant throve and became a most she rushed whenever a ship tried to delightful pet. It would allow any pass beneath, and she would snatch one to ride on its back, and seemed the unlucky seamen from the rigging to take pleasure and amusement in or as they stood at the belm endeavthis exercise. It would find its way oring to guide their vessels through through diverse passages into my sit- the perilons passage. Charybdis dwelt ting room, not unsetting or injuring under a rock only a bowshot away, on the opposite shore. The second creature sucked in and blew out seawater three times a day, and woe to "At the same time we had in cap- the ship caught in the maelstrom of

NEW REBELLION IN GARDEN OF EDEN

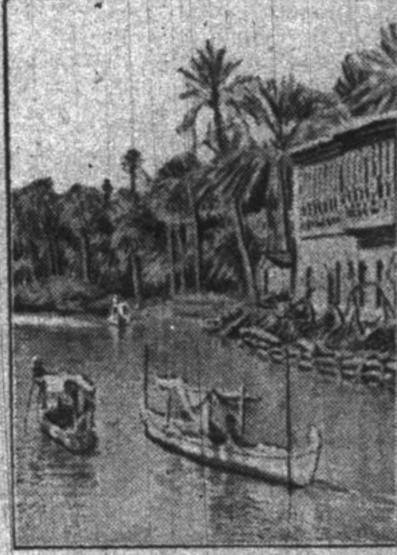
"Mesopotamia, Upper and Lower, vies with Egypt in claiming the honor of being the home of ancient civilization," says a bulletin of the National Geographic society, quoting from several communications concerning the land of Adam and Eve where the British recently sent more troops because of native uprisings.

"Mesopotamia comprises the valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. Here flourished the Chaldean, Babylonian, and Assyrian empires. The city of Bagdad, with all its glamor of mystery and magic, is in the heart of Mesopotamia.

"This was the richest land in the world, the granary of the ancients; yet, in spite of all that it has been, It today lies largely waste, the desert sands have encroached upon the fertile fields, while the clogged canals have turned other portions into swamps and marshes.

"What population there is-not more than one million-is of Arab origin and the Arabic language is spoken throughout. There is, in fact, a very distinct dividing line between the Arabic and the Turkish-speaking portions of the former Ottoman empire. This boundary corresponds with the line of the Bagdad railway from the Mediterranean to the Persian Gulf, It is for the exploitation of this rich land of Mesopotamia that the famous Bagdad line was built.

"Syria closes the east end of the Mediterranean and is bounded on the north by the Taurus mountains. The Syrian and Arabian deserts limit further settlement to the east and south But in connection with world com



in the Date Gardens of Bagdad,

merce it (Syria) has always been closely related to the fertile valleys of the Nile and the twin Mesopotamian rivers, and its commercial life of tomorrow cannot be divorced from that of Mesopotamia.

"Mesopotamia is as fertile today as when it was the birthplace of human history and when the civilization that developed there had only the Nile valley as a competitive field.

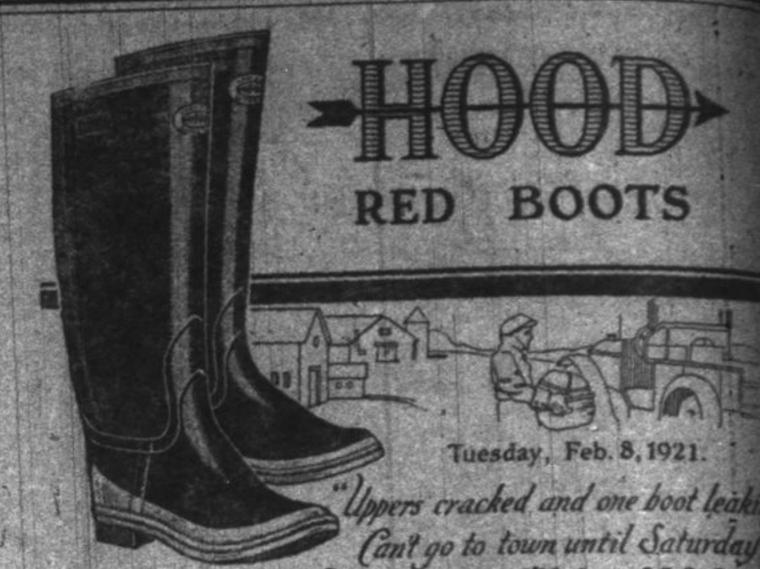
"Various factors delayed the inevitable reopening of the historic trade route across Syria and Mesopota ala in modern times,

"Nowhere, however, did trade follow the railway to a greater extent than along the Bagdad line, and in the spring of 1914 Aleppo was a thriving commercial center of German trade. At the hotels engineers and merchants crowded the dining rooms and talked of a mighty future in Mesopotamia. That summer, war came, and the burning question of styles was rapidly succeeded by one of food enough to keep body and soul together.

'Fifty miles west of Bagdad, along the Euphrates) lies the region now commonly regarded as the Garden of Eden. To irrigate this Eden and to reclaim millions of fertile acres around Bagdad was the stupendous task to which the Turkish government addressed itself.

, "At Mussayeb, on the Euphrates, a pre-war traveler saw 4,000 Arabs digging like moles in the Babylonian plain, making a new channel for the river. In the dry bed of this artificial "Nebuchadnezzar's vast irrigation fore "the world's most cruel earth- lonia, can still be easily traced for, nearly a hundred thousand lives away. the Narawn, runs parallel with the

system, which once watered all Baby-The harbor of Messina is the larg- | Tigris for dearly 300 miles; it is 350 .



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